Spime Watch: Locata installs centimeter-scale positioning at White Sands Missile Range

- By Bruce SterlingEmail Author
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*Hmmm. Well, a thirteen-year contract with the Pentagon ought to keep these guys solvent for a while. Now for "centimeter-scale" non-GPS positioning in the smart-city context. Microsoft Xbox One Nine Eight Four has the living-room handled already, while Leap Motion will do your hands.

*We seem to be creating positioning systems on a wide variety of scales now: micro-sized (RFID), hand-sized, lap-sized, desk-sized, room-sized, building-sized, city-sized, missile-range sized, drone-radar-sized, and global. One notes in passing that anything that can be 3D-scaled and registered can also be augmented.

*It's a press release.

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TMC Design awarded contract to integrate Locata's Non-GPS Based Positioning System for USAF on White Sands Missile Range

Canberra, Australia and Las Vegas, Nevada – June 11, 2013 –

Locata Corporation announced today that the US Air Force 746th Test Squadron (746 TS) recently awarded New Mexico based TMC Design Corporation a contract to install and integrate the Locata Non-GPS Based Positioning System (NGBPS) on White Sands Missile Range (WSMR).

TMC Design is a Locata Technology Integrator (LTI) that has been certified by Locata to build and install military systems in the U.S. Under this contract, TMC Design will design, integrate, install and test the NGBPS system to provide the 746 TS with highly accurate "truth data" (((<— interesting term-of-art))) covering a large proportion of WSMR.

The Locata system will give the 746 TS an entirely new and enhanced capability, allowing them to evaluate the operations of mobile and airborne position, navigation, and timing (PNT) equipment in GPS-denied environments. (((<— another interesting term of art))) The operational installation of the NGBPS system will consist of both fixed and mobile Command and Control (C2) nodes, and a network of LocataLite transceivers deployed on WSMR.

The Locata NGBPS system is capable of operating in combination with GPS, or completely independent of GPS, depending on 746 TS mission requirements.
As the GPS Test Center of Expertise and DoD's lead test organization for evaluating GPS user equipment and GPS-based guidance and navigation systems, the 746 TS recognizes the NGBPS as a critical component for the realization of the squadron's new Ultra-High Accuracy Reference System for the increasingly demanding test and evaluation of future navigation systems for the U.S. Department of Defense.
"At TMC Design, we fully understand that this Locata-based NGBPS will provide the 746 TS with an unprecedented capability," said Chris Ham, President and CEO for TMC Design Corporation. "It will allow them to provide a technically superior test environment for the evaluation of DoD guidance, navigation and NAVWAR systems in support of the warfighter in GPS-denied conditions. We are eager to lead this deployment effort, supporting the 746 TS so that they may achieve their mission goals into the next decade." (((Try to imagine a situation where the cops or government deliberately turn off the GPS in urban terrain and the uniformed troops are suddenly the only people who have it. Pretty handy, eh?)))
"Backed by years of development effort, Locata earned the sole-source, 13-year contract (((<— congrats))) to supply the USAF with our core enabling technology," said Nunzio Gambale, Locata CEO. "Locata will be the essential element which powers the USAF's new 'gold standard GPS test system,' supplying continuous centimeter-level positioning (((<—))) when GPS is completely jammed. Now that we have completed the development and contract negotiation stage and our system is to be physically deployed for operational use across WSMR, we rely heavily on the professionalism and expertise of our integration partner, TMC, to build out and install the Locata ground infrastructure. Our team looks forward to working closely with TMC and the 746 TS to make the system operational for the USAF in Q3 of this year. This Locata-based system will usher in a new era of advancement for the 746 TS, and the US military's GPS capability."
Locata Corporation, headquartered in Canberra, Australia and with a US office in Las Vegas, Nevada is the proprietary inventor, designer and manufacturer of LocataLite transceivers. These radical new devices create the synchronized NGBPS network that fully replicates a GPS constellation on the ground. There is no other technology that can achieve this.
NOTE: USAF Distribution Statement A: Approved for public release. Distribution is unlimited. PA number: 96ABW-2012-0116

About Locata
Locata Corporation has invented completely new terrestrial positioning networks which function as local ground-based replicas of GPS. As of June 2013, Locata has 114 granted patents protecting their innovations, with over 100 more in process. The company's LocataNets (or NGBPS, the acronym used by the USAF) work with or without satellite-based GPS systems to improve reliability and expand coverage for modern industrial, commercial, government and consumer applications wherever GPS is erratic, jammed or unavailable. Locata's technology breakthrough will power the next wave of GPS development – the world's first seamless satellite+terrestrial positioning systems – a new capability which Locata has dubbed GPS 2.0™.
Partnering with the best in the industry – companies like Hexagon, Leica Geosystems, the

USAF 746th Test Squadron, TMC, the IIHS, and more – Locata is single-handedly pioneering a new “GPS everywhere” experience. Next generation Locata-powered apps will deliver centimeter-level accurate positioning anywhere – indoors or out. Locata is a game-changer which is delivering previously impossible capabilities to the GPS space. Positioning will never be the same again.
Visit www.locatacorp.com

About TMC Design
Formed in 1997, TMC has direct experience working in the prime contractor role for multiple Department of Defense (DoD) acquisitions and services. With a heritage of mission-critical warfighter support, TMC Design provides state-of-the-art, cost-effective engineering and manufacturing services under an AS9100:B/ISO9001:2000 certification in the areas of custom-designed fixed and mobile antenna solutions, mobile C2 systems, space and electronic warfare systems.
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